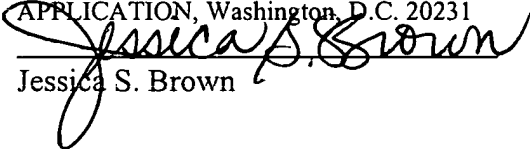


Serial No. Not assigned

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I hereby certify that on **December 28, 2001**, which is the date I am signing this certificate, I am depositing this correspondence the United States Postal Service, Express Mail Post Office to Address" service, Label No. EL920452358US, under 37 C.F.R. 1.10, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Box PATENT APPLICATION, Washington, D.C. 20231


Jessica S. Brown

PATENT
Applicant: Haruo ITO et al. (Assignees: Japan Atomic Power Co. and Nichigi Engineering Co., Ltd.)

Serial No.: Filed herewith

Filed: December 28, 2001

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
DIAGNOSING ABNORMALITY AND
ESTIMATING DEGRADATIO IN VALVE
APPARATUS

Examiner: Not known

Group Art Unit: Not assigned



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231


INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicant brings the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the examiner's attention. 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. Do not construe the filing of this information disclosure statement as a representation that applicant has made a search (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), or as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

We request that the examiner show that he or she considered the cited references by returning a copy of the attached form PTO-1449 with initials or other appropriate marks, and that the examiner make the references of record as cited references in the application.

December 28, 2001


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